

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims supersedes all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. *(Currently Amended)* A pneumatic tire, comprising:

a tread portion in which at least one rib groove extended in a tire circumferential direction is formed on a tread surface portion ~~of a tread portion~~, and portions discontinuous in terms of rigidity are formed in a circumferential direction of rib lines formed by the rib groove, the discontinuous portions causing variations of tire axle force,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein rigidity changing portions which cancel the variations of the tire axle force, caused by the discontinuous portions, are provided in the rib groove,

wherein the rigidity changing portions include protruding portions which are formed on a wall surface of the rib groove and increase rigidity against tread compression, and

wherein each protruding portion is protruded from the wall surface so that a planar shape of the protruding portion forms a substantially circular arc with a planar surface on a tip and a cross-section of the protruding portion forms a substantially triangular shape in a manner that a protruding amount is gradually reduced from a bottom surface of the rib groove toward an opening portion of the rib groove.

2. *(Cancelled)*

3. *(Currently Amended)* The pneumatic tire according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the discontinuous portions are lug grooves which are
formed at an appropriate interval in the circumferential direction of the rib lines and extended in
a tire width direction.

4. *(Currently Amended)* The pneumatic tire according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rigidity changing portions are provided at positions
opposite to the discontinuous portions in the tire width direction.

5. *(Currently Amended)* The pneumatic tire according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the discontinuous portions and the rigidity changing
portions are simultaneously present on a footprint line of the tire.

6. *(Currently Amended)* The pneumatic tire according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rigidity changing portions are provided to correspond to
every predetermined number of the discontinuous portions.

Please add the following newly presented claims 7-12:

7. *(New)* The pneumatic tire according to claim 3,
wherein the rigidity changing portions are provided at positions opposite to the discon-
tinuous portions in the tire width direction.

8. *(New)* The pneumatic tire according to claim 3,
wherein the discontinuous portions and the rigidity changing portions are simultaneously
present on a footprint line of the tire.

9. *(New)* The pneumatic tire according to claim 4,
wherein the discontinuous portions and the rigidity changing portions are simultaneously
present on a footprint line of the tire.

10. *(New)* The pneumatic tire according to claim 3,
wherein the rigidity changing portions are provided to correspond to every predetermined
number of the discontinuous portions.

11. *(New)* The pneumatic tire according to claim 4,
wherein the rigidity changing portions are provided to correspond to every predetermined
number of the discontinuous portions.

12. *(New)* The pneumatic tire according to claim 5,
wherein the rigidity changing portions are provided to correspond to every predetermined
number of the discontinuous portions.